

Public Health Office,
32, South Street,
Bridport.

December, 1945.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE BEAMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE
YEAR 1944. INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD
1938 - 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health... Adam Armit, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor ... C.C. Rundle, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Veterinary Surgeon (Part time) ... K.I. Marshall M.R.C.V.S.
Clerk to the Medical Officer ... Miss A.M. Johnson.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres ... 58,693
Registrar General's estimate of Population ... 7,646
No. of inhabited houses (according to rate books)
at end of 1944 2,523
Rateable value ... £37,443
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... £166.13.5.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births M. F.

All births 71 75
Legitimate 66 68
Illegitimate 5 7

Birth rate per 1000 resident
population = 19.1

Total births 146

Still Births M. F.

All still births 1 -
Legitimate - -
Illegitimate 1 -

Still birth rate per 1000 resident
population = 0.13

Total still births 1

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

M. F.
Total 5 2
Legitimate 5 1
Illegitimate - 1

Death rate all Infants per 1000
notified births = 47.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes Nil.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1000 live & still births Nil.

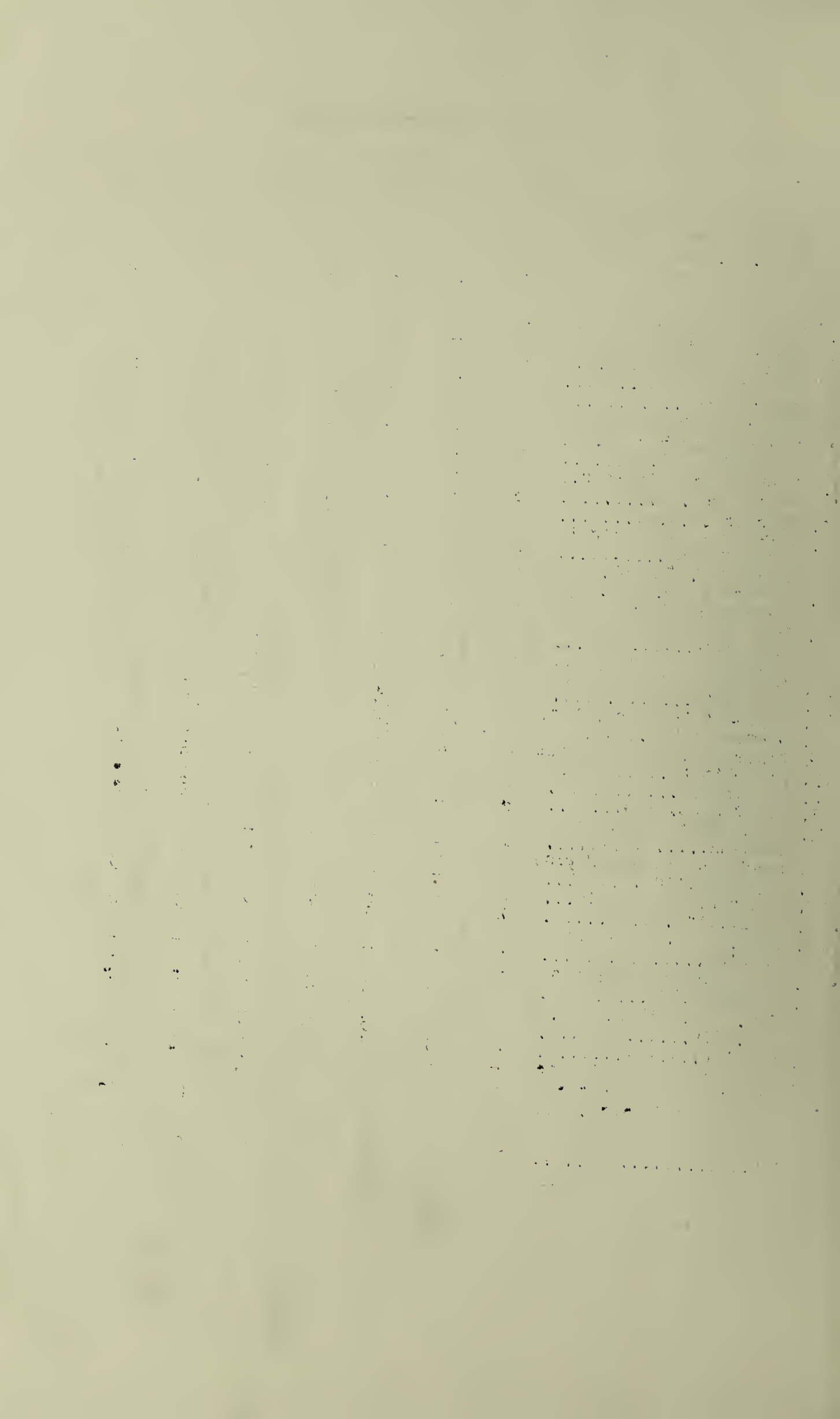
Deaths M. F.

Total Deaths 57 64

Death rate per 1000 estimated
resident population = 15.83

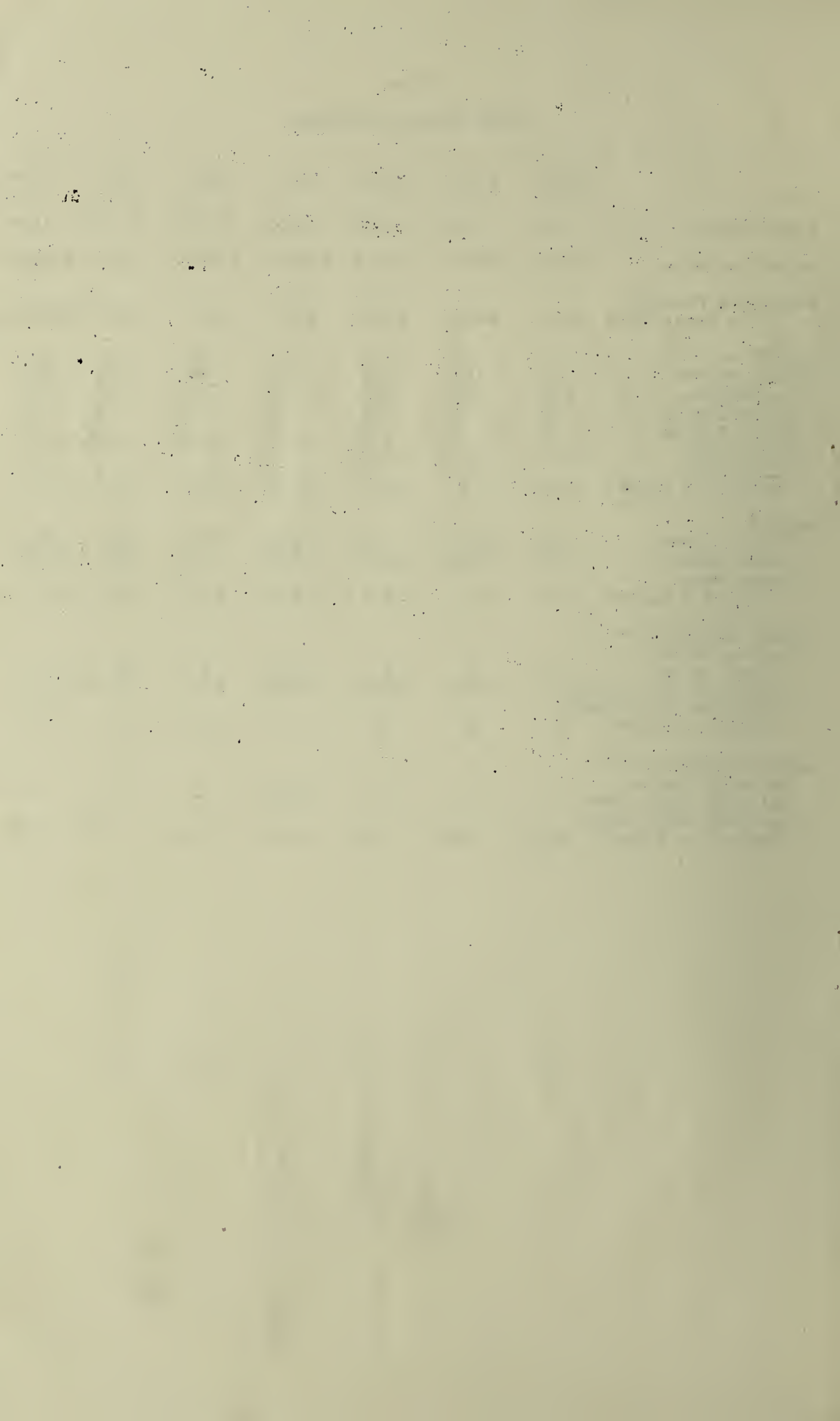
CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	2	-	-	1	-	-	2
5. Diphtheria	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System....	2	2	3	2	3	1	1
7. Other forms T.B.....	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
9. Influenza	3	2	9	3	2	5	5
10. Measles	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Enceph.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Inf. Enceph.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. & Oesoph (m) Uterus (f)	-	-	2	-	2	2	3
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum.....	-	-	5	2	3	1	2
15. Cancer of Breast	-	-	4	1	3	2	2
16. Cancer All Other Sites	16	20	10	6	9	10	13
17. Diabetes	-	-	1	1	2	3	1
18. Intracranial Vasc. Les.	7	-	14	10	9	11	7
19. Heart Disease.....	29	27	37	22	15	23	27
20. Other Dis. Circ. System	4	4	1	2	1	1	3
21. Bronchitis	1	5	5	5	9	9	4
22. Pneumonia	2	2	4	2	5	1	2
23. Other Resp. Dis.....	-	-	-	1	1	3	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	1	1	-	-	-	1	2
25. Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs)	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
26. Appendicitis	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
27. Other Digestive Dis...	4	2	1	3	2	3	1
28. Nephritis	2	2	3	3	3	3	4
29. Puer. & Post. Abort Sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
31. Prematurity	6	-	4	4	-	2	2
32. Con. Mal. Birth. Inj. Inf. Dis.....	-	4	3	5	3	1	6
33. Suicide.....	-	3	3	1	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-	2	-	2	2
35. Other Violent Causes	4	1	7	1	4	-	4
36. All Other Causes	14	35	18	23	9	21	22
TOTALS.....	102	110	137	106	87	101	122



OTHER VITAL STATISTICS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Population	7,635	7,624	7,939	8,531	8,293	8,038	7,646
Rateable Value	£29603	£30572	£30762	£35769	£36070	£37312	£37443
Estimated Produce of a Penny Rate	£131	£133	£135	£159	£155	£158	£166.13.5
BIRTHS:-							
Live Births	126	114	114	137	123	124	146
Legitimate	115	108	110	128	114	118	134
Illegitimate	11	6	4	9	9	6	12
Still Births	3	3	5	5	5	7	1
Birth Rate	16.5	15.35	14.36	16.06	14.83	15.43	19.1
Birth Rate (England & Wales)	15.61	15	14.6	14.20	15.8	16.5	17.6
DEATHS:-							
Total Deaths	102	110	137	106	87	101	122
Death Rate	13.36	11.67	14.33	12.43	10.49	12.6	15.83
Death Rate (England & Wales)	11.6	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6
INFANT MORTALITY:-							
Deaths under 1 Year of Age	9	3	8	13	2	4	7
Infantile Death Rate	71	26.31	66.66	90.28	14.5	32.26	47.9
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales)	53	50	55	59	49	49	46
MATERNAL MORTALITY:-							
Maternal Deaths ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Maternal Death Rate	-	-	-	6.71	-	-	-
Maternal Death Rate (England & Wales)	2.97	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	2.29	1.93



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Council only own one piped supply, namely in Beaminster Parish. This supply, which is continuously chlorinated, yields approximately 100,000 gallons per day, and serves a population of 1,700. There are piped supplies in the villages of Chedington, Corscombe, Evershot, Melbury Osmond, Powerstock, South Perrott and Thornoombe, all privately owned. The remaining villages depend upon wells. Under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, Messrs. Lemon & Blizzard, on behalf of the Council, made a comprehensive survey of the area. Their Report has been sent to the Dorset County Council for their approval and co-ordination into the schemes for supplying areas adjacent to the Beaminster Rural District. 34 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, 27 of these from the Beaminster supply which is sampled monthly. 5 samples from the latter were unsatisfactory and appropriate steps were taken to rectify the pollution.

Drainage & Sewerage

Messrs. Lemon & Blizzard, the firm of Chartered Civil Engineers & Surveyors, were asked to report on sewerage to the Council, in connection with the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act. Apart from a few septic tanks, the streams and rivers act as the sewers, with the result that most of these water courses are grossly polluted. This is especially so at Beaminster where the river Brit is very foul.

Sanitary Inspections

The following Inspections were carried out during the year:-

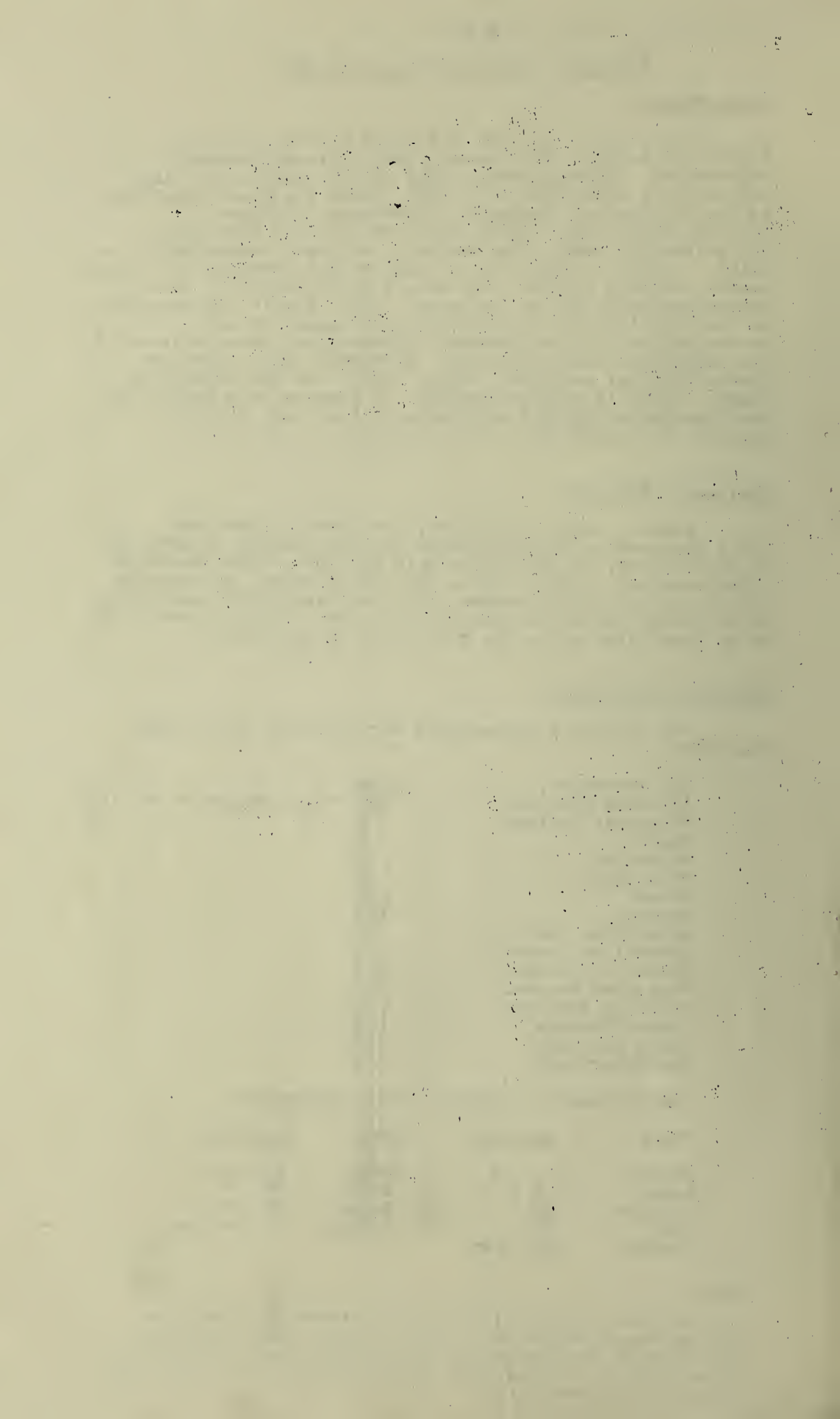
All Purposes	1094	No. complied with..	129
Informal Notices	230		
Statutory Notices	5		
Shops	2		
Factories	5		
Foodstuffs	21	"	5
Drains	180		
Housing	243		
Milk & Dairies	60		
Infectious Diseases	12		
Refuse & Salvage	219		
Nuisances General	152		
Building Bye-Laws	97		
Petrol Storage	5		
Water Supplies	96		
Knackers Yards	2		

The following foodstuffs were condemned:-

<u>Food</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Cheese	6 lbs.	Tea	25 lbs.
Sugar	6 "	Cocoa	80 "
Biscuits	24 "	Bacon	37 "
Fish	80 "	Coffee	11 bottles.
Various	220 tins.		

Meat.

All the slaughtering for West Dorset is done at a Slaughterhouse situated in the Bridport Rural District. The carcasses are inspected on every day that slaughtering takes place, by a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the four Councils concerned.



Cowsheds & Dairies

No. of Persons on Register at end of 1944	461
" Dairy Farms & Dairy Premises on Register..	460
" Dairy Farms Inspected	44
" Inspections	60
" Notices served....13 No. complied with...	17
" Milkshops Inspected	1
" Notices served....Nil No. complied with...	Nil

HOUSING

No. of dwelling houses inspected...180	No. of Inspections..243
No. found to be unfit for human habitation	30
No. found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	22
No. of houses in which various defects were remedied	25
No. of new houses erected	4
No. of houses owned by the Local Authority	90
Approximate No. of working class houses in the district....	1800

Under the Housing of Agricultural Workers Wartime Emergency Act, 4 new houses were erected at Corscombe.

The Council, for part of their Post War Housing programme, have acquired the following sites:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Area.</u>	<u>Proposed No. of Houses.</u>
Stoke Abbott	1 acre	6
Bowood.	1 "	2
Salway Ash	1 1/2 acre	2
Beamminster	4 1/2 acres	34
Thorncombe	4 "	20
Halstock	1 "	8
Marshwood	1 "	8
Netherbury	4 1/2 "	4
Mosterton	1 1/4 "	2

RODENT CONTROL

In conjunction with the Bridport R.D.C., a full time Rodent Officer was appointed. A survey of the built up areas in the district was made, after which, those areas found to be infested were gone over with a view to the destruction of the rats.

The Council were offered, and accepted, delegated powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act by the County Council, but as the latter Authority were already responsible for Rodent Control in over 90% of the area, it seems that the work of the two Authorities is overlapping and that the control would have been much better in the hands of one Authority.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1944

DISEASE	Total Cases at All Ages	Under 1 Year	65 & Total Over Deaths										Total Cases Removed to Hospital in District	Deaths in Hosu. of persons belonging to District.
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Encephalitis														
Lethargica	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	3	-
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Measles	9	-	2	-	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough....	68	3	6	4	6	6	33	12	-	-	-	2	2	-
TOTALS	106	1	8	4	7	7	38	16	4	9	2	6	4	15

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1938 - 1944

DISEASE	1938		1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	6	1	2	-	3	1	5	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	5	-	4	-	1	-	5	-	7	-	6	1
Scarlet Fever	17	-	6	-	4	-	8	-	16	1	28	-	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	4	-	3	-	8	1	2	-	9	-	2	1	4	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	2	3	2	7	3	11	2	5	3	9	1	6	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	3	1	1	-	2	-	2	1	1	-	3	1	4	1
Measles	Not known	Not known	1	-	60	-	277	3	32	-	36	-	9	-
Whooping Cough	Not known	Not known	Not known	-	12	-	60	1	1	-	31	-	68	2
TOTALS	46	4	21	2	108	6	370	7	72	4	120	3	107	7

The 7 cases of Diphtheria occurring from 1941 to 1943 were not immunised. There was a sharp outbreak of Measles in 1940 and 1941 which, fortunately, was of a fairly mild nature. Whooping Cough was prevalent in 1941 and 1944.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

From the Schools the following cases of Infectious and other Diseases were reported:-

57 cases of Whooping Cough	7 cases of Chickenpox
25 " " Impetigo	2 " " Tonsillitis
22 " " Measles	2 " " Blepharitis
22 " " Mumps	1 " " Dirtiness
17 " " German Measles	1 " " Cold & Cough
15 " " Influenza	1 " " Eczema
13 " " Ringworm	1 " " Verminous Condition.
10 " " Jaundice	1 " " Pustular Condition.
9 " " Scabies	1 " " Nettlerash
3 " " Pyrexia	

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M. F.		Non-Pulmonary M. F.		Pulmonary M. F.		Non-Pulmonary M. F.	
0 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
45 - 55	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	2	2	2	1	-	-	1

Particulars of deaths as follows:

Pulmonary. M. 50 years. Masseur. Duration of disease 3 months.

Non-Pulmonary F. 42 years. Private Secretary. Duration of Disease 10 months.

New Cases & Mortality 1938 - 1944

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M. F.		Non-Pulmonary M. F.		Pulmonary M. F.		Non-Pulmonary M. F.	
1938	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	-
1939	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-
1940	4	4	2	-	2	1	-	-
1941	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	1
1942	6	5	1	1	1	2	-	-
1943	5	4	1	2	1	-	1	-
1944	4	2	2	2	1	-	-	1
TOTALS ...	25	24	9	8	9	5	2	2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following tables show the position with regard to Diphtheria Immunisation in Beaminster Rural District as at the end of 1944.

Name of School	<u>SCHOOLS</u>			Total Locals Imm'd.	Total Temp. Rds. Immunised.	Percent. Locals Immunised.
	Total on Register.	Locals.	Temp'y Residents.			
Beaminster Grammar..	153	148	5	142	2	96%
" Boys'	64	51	13	49	8	96%
"Girls' & Infants'	125	110	15	96	14	88%
Broadwindsor	72	58	14	54	4	93%
Chedington			Closed.			
Corscombe	34	31	3	27	3	87%
Drimpton	33	27	6	26	6	96%
Evershot	112	84	28	74	8	90%
Halstock	26	22	4	11	1	50%
Holditch Manor	28	24	4	24	4	100%
Hooke	15	15	-	14	-	93%
Marshwood	56	45	11	45	10	100%
Melbury Osmond	53	49	4	44	4	90%
Melplash	23	19	4	15	4	80%
Mosterton	48	42	6	40	6	95%
Netherbury	41	31	10	25	8	80%
Powerstock	64	48	16	48	8	100%
Rampisham	19	18	1	18	1	100%
Salway Ash	44	41	3	35	3	85%
South Perrott			Closed			
Stoke Abbott	22	17	5	17	Nil	100%
Thorncombe	86	75	11	56	10	75%
TOTALS	1118	955	163	860	104	91%

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Month.	Maternity and Child Welfare Centres			Special Clinics held in each village school.		
	1st	Injec	2nd	1st	Injec	2nd.
January	1	....	4	5	....	7
February	2	....	1	12	....	11
March	2	....	-	2	....	1
April	5	....	1	-	....	-
May .....	-	....	3	-	....	2
June	2	....	4	5	....	5
July	4	....	2	29	....	20
August .....	-	....	-	-	....	1
September	7	....	7	-	....	-
October	3	....	4	2	....	2
November	5	....	5	-	....	-
December	3	....	3	8	....	8
TOTALS	34	....	34	63	....	57

Number of children aged 0 - 5 years in Beaminster R.D..... 589

Number of the above who have completed immunisation 324

Percentage..... 55%

